

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2003
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on September 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the Public Utilities Commission Auditorium, San Francisco, CA.

Members Present: Joseph E. Petrillo, Chairperson
 Jerry Epstein, Vice Chairperson
 Fran Florez, Vice Chairperson
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Bob Giroux
 Rod Diridon, Sr.
 T.J. Stapleton

Members Absent: Leland Wong

Members Reports

Vice Chairperson Florez reported that her meeting with the Merced County Supervisors went very well. The High-Speed Rail Presentation was well received and the Merced County Supervisors are in full support of the proposed high-speed rail project. Vice Chairperson Florez reported that she will be holding other meetings in the Central Valley.

Approval of Minutes for July 22, 2003 Meeting

Chairperson Petrillo presented the minutes for approval. Vice Chairperson Epstein moved to approve the June 24, 2003 meeting minutes. Vice Chairperson Florez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairperson Petrillo presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Stapleton moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation. Vice Chairperson Epstein seconded the motion, which carried, 5-0.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed reported on the budget. This year's budget for the authority includes \$1.8 million state funds and \$1.24 million federal funds for the following tasks:

- \$800,000 for operating expenses
- \$400,000 for outreach
- \$1.6 million for the completion of the EIR
- \$1 million for the implementation plan

The Department of Finance has required the Authority to decrease its personnel costs by 12%. This would result in reducing one of the Authority's personnel positions to half-time. Chairperson Petrillo expressed his dissatisfaction with the Department of Finance's requirement and recommended the Authority do anything it can to counter the requirement.

Member Diridon and Member Bates entered into the meeting.

Executive Director Morshed reported that the draft EIR/EIS is currently being reviewed by the Federal Railroad Administration and should be available for release at the next board meeting.

Approval of the Public Outreach Contract

Chairperson Petrillo handed the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Epstein to due to a potential personal conflict pertaining to this agenda item. Vice Chairperson Epstein announced the agenda item and directed attention to Executive Director Morshed. Executive Director Morshed presented an overview of the proposals received for the Public Outreach contract and the results of the selection process. Staff recommended the Public Outreach contract be awarded to Townsend, Raimundo, Besler and Usher. Chairperson Petrillo recused himself from the discussion and the vote because of a personal relationship with one of the subcontractors being considered. Member Giroux recused himself from the discussion and the vote because of an on going relationship with the Townsend, Raimundo, Besler and Usher since 1990 that has nothing to do with the Authority. Member Diridon moved to approve that the Public Outreach contract be awarded to Townsend, Raimundo, Besler and Usher. Member Stapleton seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Vice Chairperson Epstein turned the meeting back over to Chairperson Petrillo.

Approval of the Implementation Plan Contract

Executive Director Morshed presented an overview of the proposals received for the Implementation Plan contract and the results of the selection process. Staff recommended the Implementation Plan contract be awarded to Systra Consulting. Member Stapleton moved to approve that the Implementation Plan contract be awarded to Systra Consulting. Member Diridon seconded the motion, which carried 7-0.

Public Comment

Patrick Moore, Sierra Club

Mr. Moore expressed support of the proposed high-speed rail project. However, Mr. Moore stated the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club is greatly concerned about the proposed high-speed rail alignment going through Henry Coe State Park and urges the Authority to eliminate the proposed route from further investigation. The Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club has passed a resolution supporting the study of the Altamont Pass.

John Brooks, City of Palmdale

Mr. Brooks inquired about the time frames relating to the draft EIR/EIS public hearing period.

Jose Luis Mascovich, San Francisco Transportation Authority

Mr. Mascovich expressed support of the proposed high-speed rail project. He saluted the visionary work of the Authority and informed the Authority that San Francisco has secured local resources via the current .50 sales tax on transportation. This includes \$270 million for building the Transbay Terminal and over \$50 million for Caltrain rail electrification.

Identification of Date and Location of Next Meeting

The date and location of the next Authority Board meeting is October 28, 2003 in Sacramento.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.